The Cherokee Observer

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"The Only Independent Cherokee Newspaper"

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Serving the Cherokee People Since 1992

Congresswoman Watson & Congressional Black Caucus Register Outrage Over Blatant Discrimination by Cherokee Nation

Washington, DC— Congresswoman Diane E. Watson and 25 other members of the Congressional Black Caucus have sent a letter to the Bureau of Indian Affairs protesting the recent vote by the Cherokee Nation to revoke the tribal citizenship of an estimated 2,800 black Cherokee descendants.

"On Saturday, March 3, a very small minority of the Cherokee Nation voted to disenfranchise their tribal members who have African ancestry in violation of established treaty rights," said Congresswoman Watson. "This is blatant discrimination of the worst kind."

"I and my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus question the validity, legality, as well as the morality of the Cherokee Nation's vote. The black descendant Cherokees can trace their Native American heritage back in many cases for more than a century. They are legally a part of the Cherokee Nation through history, precedent, blood, and treaty obligations."

"In fiscal year 2006, the House Appropriations Committee estimates that The United States Government spent $12.6 billion a year on programs in support of Native Americans. The Cherokee Nation is one of the largest Native American tribes in the U.S. and its members obviously receive a significant share of federal funds."

"I have reason to believe that the Cherokee Nation's annual budget is somewhere in the range of $300 million a year, of which 75% is derived from federal funds. Black Cherokee descendants are now put in the incredible position of having to pay federal taxes to subsidize their own discrimination. This is a gross violation of their social, economic, and human rights."

"The federal government has a trust and responsibility through treaty obligations and federal statutes to provide for the well-being, health care, and education of Native American tribal members regardless of race. Fundamental social justice demands that the black Cherokees be reinstated in the Cherokee Nation with full rights."

The letter signed by Congresswoman Watson and Members of the Congressional Black Caucus is addressed to Carl J. Artman, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs. The full text of the letter follows:
March 13, 2007

The Honorable Carl J. Artman
Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs
Bureau of Indian Affairs
1849 C Street, NW
Mail Stop 4101
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Artman:

The undersigned members of the Congressional Black Caucus are shocked and outraged at the March 3 vote by Cherokee Nation members to revoke the tribal citizenship of an estimated 2,800 black descendants of the Cherokee Nation.

The black descendants are of mixed African-Cherokee heritage. Their lineage extends back for well over a century when they accompanied other tribal members to new settlements in Oklahoma after the Cherokee Nation had been expelled from its traditional lands in North Carolina and Georgia . Many African descendant Cherokees died during the forced migration, which has become known as the "Trail of Tears."

The Cherokee Nation fought for the Confederacy during the Civil War. After the war it signed a federal treaty, in 1866, committing that its African-Cherokee descendants would be absorbed as citizens of the Cherokee Nation. In 1983, the Cherokee Nation expelled many African descendants by requiring them to show a degree of Indian blood through the Dawes rolls. A tribal court reinstated them in March 2006. The most recent March 3 vote is an apparent attempt to override the March 2006 court decision.

We question the validity, legality, as well as the morality of the Cherokee Nation's March 3 vote to disenfranchise its African descendants. A sizeable number of persons throughout the United States who can rightfully lay claim to Native American tribal citizenship and lineage are of mixed ancestry. The tribal lineage of black Native American descendants is rich in history and precedent that equals, if not surpasses, that of other racially and ethnically mixed Native Americans who have sought and been granted full tribal status.

We respectfully request an interpretation from the Bureau of Indian Affairs of the March 3 vote, particularly the legality of the vote, as well as what actions can be taken by the Bureau to correct this egregious violation of the rights of Cherokee Nation members of African descent.

We are resolute in our efforts to undo this outrage.

The letter is signed by the following Members of the Congressional Black Caucus: Diane E. Watson (CA), Carolyn C. Kilpatrick (MI), Chaka Fattah (PA), Eleanor Holmes Norton (DC), Gregory W. Meeks (NY), John Conyers, Jr. (MI), Sheila Jackson-Lee (TX), G. K. Butterfield (NC), William J. Jefferson (LA), Bobby L. Rush (IL), Barbara Lee (CA), Donald M. Payne (NJ), Julia Carson (IN), Al Green (TX), Emanuel Cleaver (MO), Edolphus Towns (NY), Juanita Millender-McDonald (CA), Charles B. Rangel (NY), Wm. Lacy Clay (MO), Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr. (GA), Yvette D. Clarke (NY), Kendrick B. Meek (FL), Stephanie Tubbs Jones (OH), Corrine Brown (FL), John Lewis (GA), Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX)

Ed. Note: this letter was on John's board. The outrage of the recent vote against the Freedmen is getting bigger by the day. Sources say CNO tribal leaders are hunkering down in Tahlequah because they didn't realize they would cause a fire storm of criticism against their government.

Cherokee's could lose 100's of millions of federal dollars Chief Smith's handling of the freedmen issue.

Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma
General Election
set for June 23, 2007

Candidates for Principal Chief

Chad Smith
incumbent

Stacy Leeds

Candidates for Deputy Principal Chief

Joe Grayson
incumbent

Raymond Vann

See Tribal District Represntatives Candidates on page 3

BIA: Cherokee constitution, freedmen vote unapproved

By S.E. RUCKMAN
Tulsa World Staff Writer
3/31/2007

TAHLEQUAH -- The Bureau of Indian Affairs has informed Cherokee Nation officials that the federal agency has not approved a recent referendum removing freedmen from the tribe's membership.

New BIA Assistant Secretary Carl J. Artman, in a March 28 letter to Principal Chief Chad Smith, also said that a Cherokee constitution passed in 2003 still lacks federal approval. The letter was given to tribal councilors during a Rules Committee meeting Friday.

Artman said in the letter that he was responding to an Oct. 13 letter from Smith in which issues surrounding the freedmen and the constitution were discussed.

Artman said the BIA is working with the Department of Justice to study the matters "still evolving in this case."

"Until then, we want to be clear that we have not taken any administrative action on the 2003 constitutional amendment . . . and we have not approved the recent referendum removing freedmen from the Cherokee Nation membership," the letter reads.

More than 7,000 Cherokee voters approved a constitutional amendment on March 3 that would remove freedmen descendents from the tribe's rolls.

Tribal councilor Chuck Hoskin, who also is a state representative from Vinita, said he was surprised that a letter would come at such a late date after Smith wrote to Washington several months ago.

"I was surprised, and it was the first I had seen of the letter," he said. "The bottom line is, the people have voted."

Tribal council attorney Todd Hembree said the letter seemed to indicate that the bureau was clarifying its position and "looked like it was leaving their options open as to what path they were going to take."

Tribal opponents to the March 3 vote had voiced concerns that the tribe would sever its government-to-government relationship by ignoring an 1866 treaty that allowed freedmen as citizens into the tribe, which was the basis of the Cherokee Judicial Appeals Tribunal in 2006.

U.S. Rep. Diane Watson, D-Calif., who has led an effort to express congressional outrage over the freedmen vote by the Cherokees, made it clear that the letter from the BIA does not resolve the issue.

"The March 3 vote is indicative of a much larger, centuries-old problem of the five nations' failure to recognize the black Indian freedmen as co-equal and fully functioning members of their tribal and government councils," Watson said.

She said members of Congress remain concerned.

"I will continue to press Congress to conduct vigorous oversight of BIA to resolve this larger issue in a manner that will allow the freedmen to be first-class, functioning members," Watson said.

"They deserve it, and it is long overdue to them."

Earlier this month, Watson and more than two dozen members of the Congressional Black Caucus protested the vote in a letter to Artman.

They described the action by the tribe as "blatant discrimination" and asked Artman whether he believed that the vote was legal and what actions the BIA could take to respond.

BIA spokeswoman Nedra Darling said a response to the lawmakers remains in draft form.

One possible consequence of losing a federal court battle on freedmen recognition would be the loss of federal funding. The Cherokee Nation operates on an annual budget of approximately $300 million, about 80 percent of that federal funding.

Seminole Nation Attorney General Jennifer McBee, who had been invited to the Cherokee committee meeting Friday, gave a review of what happened to that tribe when it lost federal funding after a bid to remove freedmen from its membership.

"Let me tell you that that is not a good place to be," she said. "The Cherokee litigation has some highly distinguishable points from where we were."

McBee said grants, federal contracts and health funding were among the areas that have not been fully reinstated since federal funding was cut in 2003.

World Washington Bureau reporter Jim Myers contributed to this story.

S.E. Ruckman 581-8462
se.ruckman@tulsaworld.com

By S.E. RUCKMAN World Staff Writer

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Tribal councilors to serve staggered terms, Service Employees Bonuses Again Rejected

By Ed Crittenden

During February regular council meeting the Cherokee Nation Tribal Council approved an act, voting 13-3, that would stagger terms for councilors elected in 2007.

Jack D. Baker, at-large councilor, was the only one who commented on the act. Baker pointed out the act is being suggested very close to the candidate filing period and the upcoming election.
"This measure passed 6-4 in subcommittee and would provide either six- or four-year terms," said Baker. "I think it would be better to wait to consider this after the election."
Some may find the new legislation confusing, as the new districting plan required by the new Cherokee Constitution has yet to be determined.

According to District 1 Councilor Bill John Baker, elected terms in his district would be split, one position serving six years and the other four years. But if the redistricting plan is passed, it may create a third slot in District 1, which would provide a second, six-year slot for the district. Since staggered terms would alternate between six and four years beginning with district one, a third position in District 1 would also affect all the other districts down the line, as far as terms are concerned.

Principal Chief Chad Smith's veto of legislation that would provide the balance of the Cherokee Nation employees bonus was upheld, 10-6, following impassioned comments from councilors on both sides of the issue. This was the second time Smith has vetoed similar legislation to fund the remainder of the $1,000 bonus to every employee within the service base of tribal operations. Initially after council appropriated money for the bonus, the administration chose to withhold operation and overhead costs shorting employees approximately $300. Councilors argued this was not the intent of council and that overhead and indirect costs were already being covered by the normal salary expense.

Councilor Cara Cowan-Watts, one of Smith's political slate councilors representing Rogers County, argued in favor of sustaining the veto. Most tribal employees within Roger's County district are employees of Cherokee Nation Enterprises, (CNE). "I understand this is an emotional, passionate issue," said Cowan-Watts. "But I believe we should balance providing services to citizens with providing attractive employment packages to employees. I have to support the veto."

Councilor Phyllis Yargee pointed out that services to citizens would not be affected, and that by providing the balance of the $1,000 bonus promised to Cherokee Nation employees, they would be operating "within the true spirit of Gadugi."

During committee meeting discussion comparison was reviewed between bonuses to Cherokee Nation employees and employees of CNE.

Councilor Buel Anglen, of Tulsa, Washington area, stated during committee meeting discussion on the Act, "Comparing employees working for the tribe to employees working in our casinos is like comparing apples to oranges. CNE is our cash cow and those people make money for the tribe," he said.

continues on page 3

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I predicted the outcome almost exactly... March 8 2007

On Thursday prior to the vote, I met with two Cherokees at StarBucks in Tulsa. Over hot chocolate and coffee we discussed the vote. One of my friends predicted a 60/40 against the Freedmen and the other thought it would be a little higher, at 65/35. I said no, after passing through the Nation, listening to the people, the vote would be 75/25 against the Freedmen.

There are many reasons why the Cherokee people would take such a vicious stand against the Black Cherokees. First, they were grossly misinformed about the Freedmen. The press continued to describe the Freedmen as simply descendants of black slaves and free blacks. This description was true of them in 1866, but was not true in 1902. And the free blacks mentioned in the treaty were Cherokee Indians with black ancestry who had been in the Nation for generations, some crossing the Trail of Tears, but because of their black blood, they were not considered Indians. And of course we have Chad Smith, at every turn, describing the Freedmen as "non-Indians" as if the roll they appear on was proof positive of whether they have Indian blood or not. He knows for a fact the Freedmen roll is not proof of that.

By the time the Dawes Commission began its work in creating the Dawes Roll, Cherokee Indians had intermarried with blacks in measurable numbers. The children born to these relationships were as much Cherokee Indians as were the children born to white/Indian marriages. However, because of the virulent racism of the time and present in the views of the clerks of the Commission, persons of Indian/black relationships were simply dumped onto the freedmen roll against their will.

There is also ample evidence of Cherokee blood in the freedmen families who, while once slaves, were the children and grandchildren of their masters. At least one third of the enrolled Dawes Freedmen possess Cherokee blood through the masters creeping into the slave quarters. The Dawes Commission recorded this fact, but ignored it when the roll itself was created.

Second, racism is not unknown among the Cherokees by blood. Since most Cherokees are more white than they are Indian, their culture is reflected more closely in the views of white America. And because most Cherokes derive their white blood from people who immigrated to the Cherokee Nation from the deep south, the southern form of racism, made famous by murders, cross burnings and brutal segregation in the state of Alabama, is our heritage. In fact, the first law passed by the Oklahoma legislature following statehood was a law to segregate rail cars.

I grew in Tahlequah, listened to the black jokes, saw the black kids get pushed around and talked about behind their backs. We were told not to go up on Ni**er hill west of Tahlequah after dark. In 1902, it was believed that one drop of negro blood tainted the individual and negated any other blood he/she might have. Apparently Cherokees who believe that one drop of Indian blood makes them an Indian, also continue to hold onto the antiquated view than one drop of negro blood destroys the Indian blood, no matter how much there is.

Third, Chad Smith and his minion misinformed the Cherokee people regarding the battle fought by the Freedmen for their civil rights. Smith painted the Freedmen as greedy newcomers intent upon soaking up the hard-won funds of the Cherokee Indians. He even stated that before the Allen ruling (2006), he had not heard of the Freedmen. That is a blatant lie, because I took his silly history class in 1995, where he and I debated about the rights of the Freedmen. It is a lie that the Freedmen are newcomers. Many Freedmen hold and treasure their voting cards issued to them in 1970 and 1975 by W.W. Keeler and Ross Swimmer. Their names, along with the names of Cherokees by blood appear on every roll dating from 1970 back to 1866. They have been with us for over 140 years.

The Freedmen enjoyed equal voting rights with all other Cherokees right up to 1983, when Ross Swimmer had them ousted to protect his bid for re-election after he thought they were going to vote enmasse against him. Swimmer did not orginally see the Freedmen as an enemy. In 1974, he had written a letter to Indian Health Service seeking medical services for Freedmen. In 1975, just prior to the adoption of the 1976 Constitution, then tribal attorney Earl Boyd Pierce stated in a letter that the reorganization of the Cherokee Nation MUST include the Delawares, Shawnees, Keetoowahs and THE FREEDMEN.

Immediately following their unlawful expulsion in 1983, Rev. Roger Nero, an original Freedmen Dawes enrollee, filed suit against Ross Swimmer. His case, heard in the 10th Circuit Court, was dismissed because he had not exhausted his tribal remedy by taking the case to the JAT. That case was ruled on in 1988. It was then that I started researching the Freedmen and joined their struggle.

In 1996, I filed the Riggs case for Mrs. Bernice Riggs, a Cherokee Indian descended from the Bean and Ridge families, whose parents had been stuck on the Freedmen roll because they were also part black. The Judicial Appeals Tribunal ruled, in 1999, that Mrs. Riggs was in fact a Cherokee Indian, but because her parents were on the Freedmen Roll, she could not be enrolled. The court erroneously applied the Martinez v. Santa Clara Pueblo doctrine to the actions of the tribal council and ignored its own previous ruling in Leach v. Election Commission that said the Council did not have the authority to ADD requirements to the constitution without a vote of the people.

In 2004, I filed a lawsuit against the tribal council on behalf of Mrs. Lucy Allen, a Cherokee Indian whose parents both appear on the Freedmen roll. In this case, the JAT was able to determine that the actions of the council placed requirements upon applicants for membership, ie the Freedmen, which did not appear in the constitution. In other words, there is NO blood requirement in the constitution, only a Dawes enrolled ancestor requirement. Because of this fact, the Freedmen were members. An interesting aside that most thin blood Cherokees should thank the Freedmen for is the Allen ruling made it clear that the Council could NEVER impose a blood quantum requirment without a vote of the people. Sadly, the thin bloods did not see this fact when they marked their ballots.

Earlier this year, a petition was circulated to bring about a special election. The court, in contradiction of tribal law, just as was the case with the Riggs case, found the petition to be valid. Thus, the special election vote which has percipitated shock and disbelief around the world, will once again oust the Freedmen.

Much has been said in this struggle by Freedmen opponents about protecting our Indian heritage, defending our daughters and keeping our money to ourselves. All anyone has to do is replace the word Indian with the word white and you are immediately transported to 1968, where Chad Smith, oops, I mean George Wallace cried out: "Segregation now, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever!"

David Cornsilk

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The Cherokee Observer welcomes letters to the Editor. All letters must be signed and include the writer's address. Lettersmay be edited for space and or libelous content. Names may be withheld upon request. Letters will be published as space permits. Letters to the Editor express the views of the writer and donot necessarily reflect the view of the Cherokee Observer. 020307

It could cost the Cherokee Nation millions March 7 2007

Descendants of people the Cherokee once owned as slaves say they will challenge a special election that kicked them out of the tribe.

They also promised to lobby the U.S. government to cut federal ties to tribe, a move that could cost the Cherokee Nation millions of dollars.

Cherokee officials are calling those threats a scare tactic brought by people more interested in seeing the Cherokee Nation lose funding than seeing the will of the people done.

On Saturday, more than 76 percent of Cherokee voters decided in a special election to amend the nation's constitution to remove about 2,800 freedmen descendants and other non-Indians from the tribal rolls.

Editor:

This is in response to a letter written by Ms. Lisa Lyon, Claremore Progress, March 9, 2007, regarding wording of Ms. Thelda Boen's article with plans to run for Cherokee Nation Council position, District 7, Rogers County.

I take issue with two items with Ms. Lyon's letter. She stated in her letter, "First, I would like to correct MISINFORMATION, in which it was IMPLIED, that all Cherokee Nation employees received huge bonuses." "EVERYONE that applied and adhered to the guidelines was granted a scholarship". " There were over 2,100 scholarships given this past semester."

Ms. Boen's article reads as follows: Not All Cherokee people are fortunate to get big bonuses. The Cherokee people are better than this. Not one of our own should be treated in a disrespectful manner regardless of their financial situation. I'll bet those receiving big bonuses didn't have to stand outside the back of a big semi trailer until it was their turn. This type of discrepancies in treatment within the Cherokee Nation has to stop.

One of the frequent concerns voiced by her fellow Cherokee regards the availability and awarding of education scholarship funds. Scholarships should be easily attainable for our young men and women who wish them. The process for applying for scholarships and educational assistance should and can be made simpler.

I also read an article in the November/December 2006 published: Cherokee Observer, P.O. Box 487, Blackwell, Oklahoma 74631. Cherokee Nation Enterprises net income was $89,261,000.00. Records show that 2,451 hourly CNE employees got an AVERAGE of $1,708.63 bonus and 675 salaried employees got an AVERAGE $9,043.01 bonus.

Now Ms.Lyons, after reviewing your statements regarding Ms. Boen's article, I am unable to see how you came to the conclusion that "all CNE employees received huge bonuses" or that the bonuses were of equal value. Ms. Boen did not state that all employees received huge bonuses but that "not all Cherokee people are fortunate to get big bonuses."
Regarding the scholarship program, Ms. Boens was relaying "one of the frequent concerns voiced by fellow Cherokees about the availability and reward of educational scholarships." Ms. Lyons, I am pleased your daughter was awarded a scholarship to further her education, but obviously Ms. Boens is still hearing concerns. I'm not sure how the concerns of some citizens is translated into an "issue" for you.The information that I have is that these scholarships are for $1,000.00 per semester at most, which will not cover all college expenses.
Because the scholarship amount is minimal, the student will likely have to work part-time. As you said, "few things are free in the real world."My vote will go to Ms. Thelda Boen because she is talking to the people, listening and caring about their concerns enough to try to improve the conditions in the lives of the Cherokee People. Now I have a personal comment about the educational scholarship program: according to the Cherokee Observer, Nov/Dec 06 issue, records show that 2451 hourly CNE employees received an average of $1,708.63 bonus and 675 salaried employees received an average $9,043.01 bonus. This total comes to $10,291.883 with a net profit of $89,261,000.00 indicating that 11 ½% was returned to employees.According to Ms. Lyons statement, 2,100 students received educational scholarships (I have not verified this number personally). At $1,000. per scholarship, this total is $2,100,000. which is 2.3% of net profit of CNE.

Look at this chart below and see where the focus of CNE is:Hourly employees bonus **$4,187,852**.
Salaried employee bonus **$6,104,031**.
Educational Scholarships **$2,100,000**.

Sally LaFayette
1716 S. 125th E. Ave
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74128

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Chief Smith keeps telling us we need to vote for his 2007 slate for tribal councilors, so he can get things done. They will work together as a team.

Sounds good, but is it constitutional? It says that no branch of government is to control another. No one person is to control all branches of government. If one person has control of all three branches of government it's a dictatorship. Which is what we have been working under for 3 1/2 years already.

We have seen this slate in action over these last 3 1/2 years. Tribal councilors voting to approve an act in committee. Then have Chief Smith Veto's it, then his slate not doing anything to overturn the veto. Which amounts to doing what the Chief wants even when it is a great act of law. Their actions are puppets, bought & paid for. These are main puppets from the 2003 slate.

Meredith Frailey (6)
Jackie Bob Martin (2)
Cara Cowan Watts (7)
Buel Anglen (8)
Don Garyin (4)
Audra Smoke Conner (2)

* Jack 0. Baker (2)

Over these last 3 1/2 years, chief smith met with theses slate members outside of the tribal complex to plan how, who and what was to be presented at the tribal council meetings. This could be that they conspired; (to plan together secretly.) to follow Chief Smith's orders. This may be in violation to constitution.

* new At Large

Election Protest Filed Today

March 15 2007
Election Commission
P. O. Box 1188
Tahlequah, Oklahoma
74465-0948
458-5899 or 1-800-353-2895
Fax (918) 458-6101

March 15, 2007

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I, Robin Mayes, Cherokee Citizen, registered voter hereby submits the following challenge of candidacy and eligibility of the following persons who filed for the 2007 CNO election for the following reasons to wit.

1 Chadwick Smith:
A Exceeding the two-term limit as established by the 1999 CNO amended constitution.
B Violation of the bona fide residency requirement
C Cherokee by blood requirement

2 Buel Anglen:
A Nepotism
B Exceeding the two-term limit as established by the 1999 CNO amended constitution.
C Lying to the Election Commission and Council about his residency & nepotism

3 Don Garvin:
A Exceeding the two-term limit as established by the 1999 CNO amended constitution.

4 Joe Grayson:
A Nepotism

5 Jackie Bob Martin:
A Exceeding the two-term limit as established by the 1999 CNO amended constitution.

6 Stacy Leeds:
A Violation of the bona fide residency requirement

7 David Thornton:
A Exceeding the two-term limit as established by the 1999 CNO amended constitution.

8 Melvina Shotpouch:
A Exceeding the two-term limit as established by the 1999 CNO amended constitution.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Mayes
Address and contact info:

From the Web

Election Protest Filed Today
March 15 2007 at 8:55 PM - Tuya

Response to Election Protest Filed Today
Thank you Robin. There were several questionable irregularities in this 2007 election process. To name a few. Why was such a short time for candidates to file for office? They should have had at least 10 days. Also, If there is a 3rd council seat in District #1 and others as expected, hopefully they will be open to all interested candidates after the ruling is received from the Jucicial Supreme Court, not just for those who filed a protest. It appears that the election commission is trying to get this election past them at any cost at the expense of a viable cherokee nation election process.

Not to mention the conflicted commissioners on the Election Commission
March 15 2007 at 11:19 PM
Anonymous

Response to Election Protest Filed Today
When is someone going to point out the two commissioners who are obviously conflicted? Patsy morton thats got a son working in law and justice for big money and a daughter in law that has contracts as a public defender for Cherokee Nation. Then chad hired her husband for big money to replace dusty delso after he got in the sexual harrasment scandle. morton is in such conflict it ain't funny. Then you have drew wilcoxen as a commissioner with his brother sitting on the supreme court ready to uphold any ruling made by the commission. Does any of this sound like a conflict or is it just me?

Recusal
March 15 2007 - Magidel

Response to Not to mention the conflicted commissioners on the Election Commission.
Then Wilcoxin should recuse himself from the bench to avoid a questionable conflict of interest.

Plus you have Haskins who was an Election Commissioner
March 16 2007 at 2:16 AM
Anonymous

Response to Recusal
Don't forget Justice Kyle Haskins who was a chief appointment on the election commission but resigned this term right after he tried to carry out chads dirty work of trying to keep commissioner Hathaway from being seated. Haskins was on the election commission during the last election which was protested where an abundance of impropriety and crimes were discovered during the trial but nothing ever done. Now he is a supreme court judge. And then there is matlock who was chads partner in crime or I mean law...

Historically a former Election Commissioner could not run for office for at least two years after leaving the commission. A few months ago the slate changed the law so that Rita Bunch could run for council this time. She was on the same corrupt commission in the last election and was appointed again by chad this time. I bet cha she was also told to resign the commission right after Haskins did so that chad could keep the commission destablized and unable to function. Now Bunch is running for council in Adair County. What a crock of crooks!

Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma

General Election set for June 23, 2007

2007 ELECTION DATES
* ~~Absentee Ballot Request Open 2/5/07~~
* ~~Candidates Filing and Authorized Financial Agent Statement 3/5/07 - 3/8/07~~
* ~~Voter Contest of Candidates Eligibility 3/9/07 - 3/15/07~~
* ~~Candidates Withdrawal Period 3/9/07 - 3/22/07~~
* ~~Commissioner's Investigation of Candidates 3/9/07 - 3/26/07~~
* ~~Commission Meeting 3/08/07~~
* ~~Drawing for Ballot Position and Watchers Location TBA~~
* ~~Eligibility Letter Deadline 3/26/07~~
* ~~Voter Registration and District and Precinct Changes Closes 3/30/07~~
* Appeal of Election Commission Eligibility Decision with Supreme Court 3/27/07 - 4/2/07

PRINCI, PA L CHIEF

Stacy Leeds
11177' Hwy 10
Tahlequah, OK 74464
www.stacyleeds.com

Chad 'Corntassel" Smith
22958 S, 494 Rd.
Tahlequah, OK 74464

DEPUTY CHIEF

Raymond Vann
21828 N. Ben George Rd.
Tahlequah, OK 74464
www.raymondvann.com

Joe Grayson, Jr
530 Summit Ave
Tahlequah, OK 74464
www.joegrayson.com

DISTRICT 1

Bill John Baker (1)
406 E. Arden
Tahlequah, OK 74464

Barbara Dawes Martens,(1)
22092 West 877 Rd
Cookson, OK 74427

Tina Glory Jordan (2)
12272 W. 770 Road
Hulbert, OK 74441

Audra Smoke Conner (2)
8509 Hwy 82
Hulbert, OK 74441

Amon A. Baker (2)
312 W. Clay St,
Tahlequah, OK 74464

David Walkingstick (2)
21969 S, 482 Rd.
Tahlequah, OK 74464

DISTRICT 2

S. Joe Crittenden (1)
PO Box!542
Stilwell, OK 74960 0542

Rita Bunch (1)
Rt 3 Box 2510
Stilwell, OK 74960

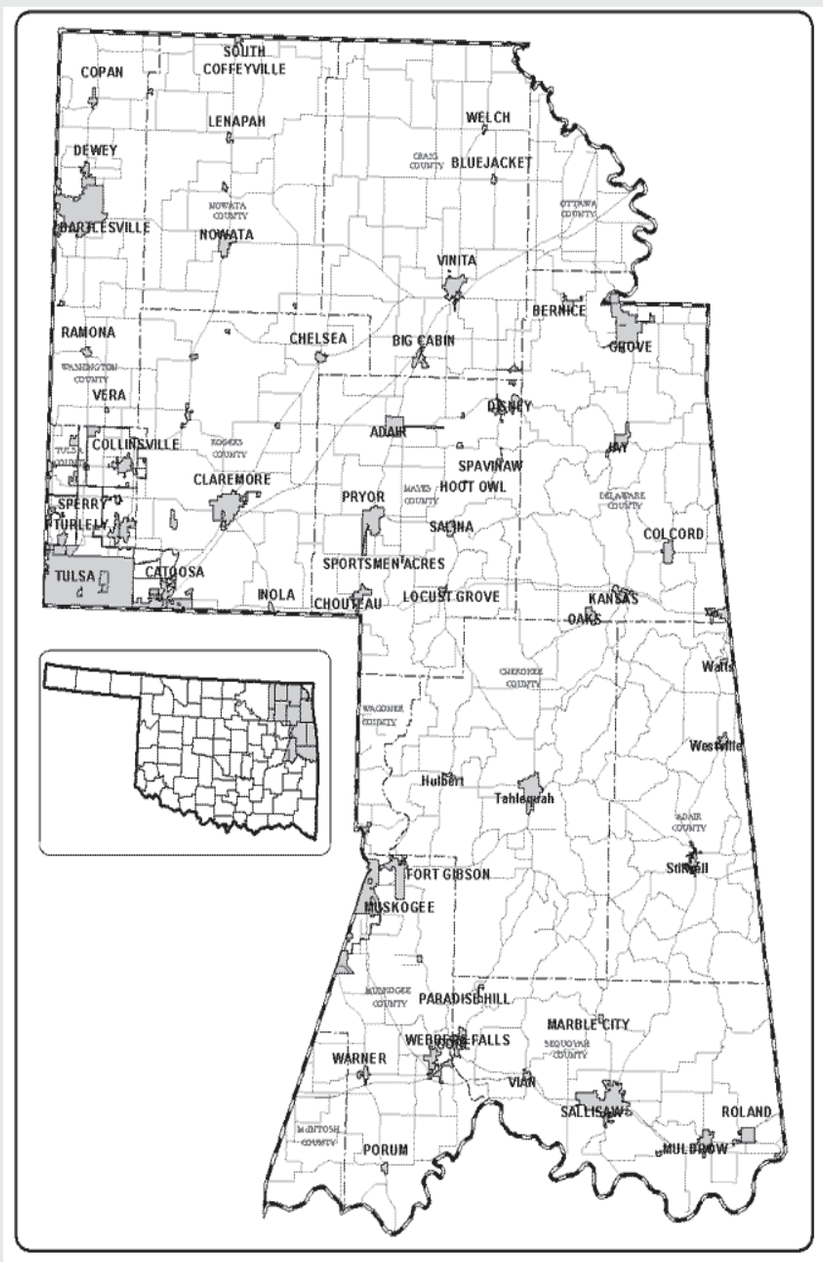
Bob G. Leach (2)
RR 4 Box 615
Stilwell, OK 74960

Ronnie Joe Hale (2)
Rt 4 Box 631
Stilwell, OK 74960

Jack L. Christie (2)
Rt 2 Box 625
Stilwell, OK 74960

Jackie Bob Martin (2)
Rt 6 Box 436
Stilwell, OK 74960

Jodie Fishinghawk (2)
309 W. Locust St.
Stilwell, OK 74960



DISTRICT 3

David W. Thornton, Sr (1)
PO Box 387
Vian, OK 74962

Sam Ed Bush, Jr (1)
PO Box 276
Marble City, OK 74945- 0276

Janelle Lattimore Fullbright (2)
Rt 1 Box 104
Sallisaw, OK 74955

Phyllis A. Yargee (2)
Rt I Box 284
Gore, CK 74435

DISTRICT 4

Don Garyin (1)
1112 Sky View Orive
Muskogee, OK 74403

Mickey lgert (1)
PO Box 2012
Fort Gibson, OK 74434

DISTRICT 5

,
Melvina Shotpouch (1)
PO Box 1380
Jay, OK 74346

Harley Buzzard (1)
8385 County Road 396
Eucha, OK 74342

Linda Hughes OLeary (2)
PO Box 7
Jay, OK 74346

Curtis G. Snell (2)
55569 S, 550 Rd.
Rose, OK 74364

Susan Lamb Reed (2)
PO Box 668
Kansas, OK 74347

DISTRICT 6

Jerry 0. Troglin (1)
2218 E Hwy 412
Locust Grove, OK 74352

Sue Fine (1)
PO Box 1585
Locust Grove, OK 74352

Chris Soap (1)
1120 SE 14th St.
Pryor, OK 74361

Gary R. Keener (2)
PO Box 301
Rose, OK 74364

Meredith Frailey (2)
PO Box 699
Locust Grove, OK 74352

DISTRICT 7

Thelda Rucker Boen (1)
21306 S. 4170 Rd.
Claremore, OK 74019

Cara Cowan Watts (1)
PO Box 2922
Claremore, OK 74018

DISTRICT 8

Roy Eugene Herman (1)
331 W. Blair St.
Sperry, OK 74073

Buel Anglen (1)
1831 S. Broadway
Skiatook, OK 74070

Bradley Cobb (2)
PO Box 3351
Bartlesville, OK 74006

Stephen 0. Earley (2)
425 N.E. Spruce
Bartlesville, OK 74006

DISTRICT 9

Rodney Lay (1)
Rt 2 Box 329
Nowata, OK 74048

Chuck Hoskin, Jr (1)
218 S. 4th Street
Vinita, OK 74301 3806

AT LARGE

Taylor Keen (1)
1628 S. Trenton Ave.
Tulsa, OK 74120

Julia Coates (1)
PO Box 1202
Woodland, CA 95776

AT LARGE

Sean R. Nordwall (2)
8256 E_ Holly St.
Scottsdale, AZ 85257

Jack 0. Baker (2)
1102 Marlboro Lane
Oklahoma City, OK 73116

continued from page 1

Tribal councilors to serve staggered terms, Service Employees Bonuses Again Rejected

Linda O'Leary responded, "The main focus of operation for this tribe is providing services to the Cherokee people. These employees supply those services. It sounds like your arguing that employees supplying gambling are more deserving of a bonus than the ones who provide services and that won't hold water," she said.

Bill John Baker, Co Chair of Executive and Finance, brought to light that last year the administration failed to spend nearly $35 million dollars the Council had appropriated to be spent on services. "If the administration is not going to spend the money on services then let's get some of this into the hands of the Cherokee workers," Baker said. "The merit system for raises does not reach every employee and it allows the administration to pick and choose who will and won't get a bonus. I think since Cherokee employees did not get the cost of living raise last year that the state gave last year, we need to catch them up."

The average CNE hourly employee bonus in 2006 was $1,700 while the average corporate salaried employee bonus was $10,000. Many upper level salaried officials receive 80% to 100% of their salary as a bonus so an average is not a good representation of who bonuses reach. Bonuses for CNE employees totaled over $10 million in 2006. (See the comparison of CNE and CN employee bonuses.)

During the regular meeting committee reports, Bryan Collins, CEO for Cherokee Nation Industries, reported $5.7 million in revenue for CNI for 2006, with $1.4 million in actual profit. Councilor Bill John Baker asked Collins for breakdown in write-offs for CNI for 2006. Collins said $3.6 million had to be written off as losses in 2006, with the majority of the funds being attributed to the investment in Global Energy Group, (GEG) and Cherokee Idling Solutions.

Seven councilors filed a federal lawsuit alleging Smith and others were involved in securities fraud. Councilors hoped to recoup nearly $6 million of tribal funds spent on what they called a worthless investment and mismanagement of funds. The case was dismissed on a technicality where the judge ruled councilors lacked the standing to file the case. All surrounding evidence has since been turned over to the CNI board and the Attorney General for investigation and or prosecution. The councilors say they will be watching to see if these entities do their duty.

"Surplus inventory played into that write off figure," said Collins. "We had some inventory that had been outdated and was obsolete."

Councilors concerned about the operations of CNI stood united in opposition during the board appointment agenda items Monday night. However, Williams Grass and Jim Carson were both confirmed to be reappointed by Smith to the CNI board of directors, 9-7.

Councilor Linda Hughes-O'Leary, an Advisory Board member of CNI, opposed the appointments.
"Since no one on the board at CNI has seen fit to find out more about the investment in GEG, I cannot support reappointing any of these members to the board," said O'Leary.

Councilor David Thornton noted that William Grass was not only on the agenda for confirmation to CNI's board, but also to the board of Cherokee Nation Business.

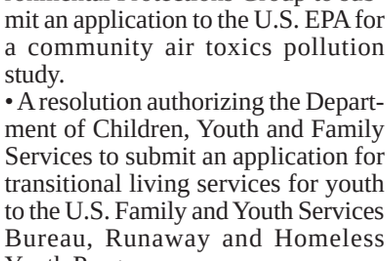
"I can't support confirming William Grass, because I don't think anyone should be able to serve on the board of a business and on the board of Cherokee Nation Business, which approves funding for that same entity," Thornton said. "I think it presents a conflict of interest."

Other board appointment confirmations included Dennis Dowell and B.J. Dumond, who were confirmed to serve on the board of directors of Cherokee Nation Enterprises.

Other action
In other matters, the council approved:
• A grant application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for $300,000 for training, research and technical assistance related to methamphetamine contaminated brownfield sites in Indian Country.
• A resolution authorizing the Environmental Protections Group to submit an application to the U.S. EPA for a community air toxics pollution study.
• A resolution authorizing the Department of Children, Youth and Family Services to submit an application for transitional living services for youth to the U.S. Family and Youth Services Bureau, Runaway and Homeless Youth Program.

Portions of the above article are attributed to Teddye Snell and ran in the Tahlequah Daily Press

Editor Note: The question is before the Court if Councilors can set a longer term of the office than designated within the constitution and increase half of the seats to six years or if they must instead designate half of the seats within this election cycle as two year terms. Some say it is unconstitutional for the legislative to exceed the constitution by increasing their own term of office and that they must instead use a period that is less than the maximum allowed by the constitution to accomplish the staggered terms as mandated within the 1999 Constitution.



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ᏆᎳᎩ ᏗᎪᏯᎵ

Cherokee Syllabary

(ah)	(ay)	(ee)	(oh)	(oo)	(uh)	
D	R	T	ꭰ	Ꮿ	i	1.
ᎦᏫ	Ꮢ	Ꮉ	A	J	E	2. (g, k)
ᏂᏬ	Ᏹ	Ꮒ	Ꮀ	Ꮁ	Ꮕ	3. (h)
W	Ꮷ	Ꮅ	Ꮆ	M	Ꮓ	4. (L)
Ꮞ	Ꮋ	H	Ꮟ	Ꮍ		5. (m)
ᎾᏓ	Ꮑ	h	Z	Ꮃ	Ꮷ	6. (n, nh)
Ꭲ	Ꮿ	Ꮴ	ᏥᏰ	Ꮿ	Ꮄ	7. (q)
ᏌᏯ	Ꮞ	ᏏᏲ	ᏎᏰ	ᏯᏯ	Ꮥ	8. (s)
ᏓᏩ	Ꮼ	Ꮾ	Ꮻ	Ꮩ	Ꮢ	9. (d, t)
ᏏᏔ	ᎦᎢ	ᏗᏘ	V	S	Ꮇ	10. (dl, tl)
Ꮐ	Ꮩ	Ꮶ	K	Ꮷ	Ꮳ	11. (j, ch)
Ꮆ	ᏪᏪ	Ꮎ	ᏬᏬ	Ꮷ	Ꮾ	12. (w, hw)
ᏍᏫ	ᏼ	ᏯᏰ	ᏨᏰ	ᏩᏫ	B	13. (y, hy)

Use vowel sound on top for each column vowel sound. Use consonant sound for each line across.

Exception (Line 8) ᏍᏫ only has "s-s-s" sound, and no vowel sound.

Cherokee Symbol Study

ᎦᏫ (gah-nuh-gah)----------**fell**

Ꮆ (gay-hee)----------**Lisa**

Ꮉ (gee-gah-gay) ----------**red**

A (goh-hoh-s-gah)----------**it's falling**

J (goo-lay)----------**dove**

E (guh-nah)----------**He's alive**

Marvin J. Summerfield
Language Editor
Miami, Oklahoma

THE EASY WAY

The first step in learning to read and write Cherokee is to learn the Cherokee Syllabary. Sequoyah taught it using the sight and sound method, we have found that to be the best method also. We suggest you learn one line at a time. Say and write each symbol of the line seven times. Repeat until each line is learned then move on to the next. But, always review the previous lines. After you learn the Syllabary, Cherokee words and short phrases will be easier to learn. Although we strongly urge you to use all available Cherokee language resources, We recommend you to avoid using English phonetics. Learning the sound of the symbol by sight eliminates the dependency on an unnecessary learning step which some new methods use.

ᎦᏫ

Ꮆ

Ꮉ

A

J

E

This is the first line in the Cherokee syllabary. Read the symbols from the left to the right.

We will print one word or a short sentence in the Cherokee Syllabary each issue.
Look at the written symbols on the lines above and then trace the following dotted lines to learn the Shape of each symbol.
Then say the Sounds of the Symbols each time you write them. (Look at the syllabary to find the sounds for each symbol).
Then do it on your own. You will now know the Sounds and the Shapes of each of the Symbols for each line.

Presidential Proclamation of Pardon and Amnesty

ᏣᎵᏂᏍ ᏧEᎾᏩᏒ ᎤEᎾᏩᏍᎯ JZᏩW0ᏍᎯ

EhᏩᏤ, ᏣᎵᏂ ᎤhᏯ ᎤᎾᏁᏍET ᎾᏥ ᏯᎦSᎩ ᏂᏒ ᎦJᏯᎤᏁᏍ hEᎾ TᏂᎦᎤᏁᏗ Ꮖ4ᏯᏗ ᎾᏯᎩ ᏣᎵᏂ ᏗhShᎾ hᎦᏗ ᏯᎦSᎩ ᏚᏂᏬᏗRT D4 ᎤhᏩᏃ ᎤᎾᏒᎦᏐ DᏰᏢ ᏂᏒ TᏗᎾᏁᏗ Ꮖ4ᏯᏗ ᏣᏗᏤ, DᎴ JhᏯᏍᏓᏗ Ꮖ4ᏯᏗ ᏍᏂᏓZᏢᏤ, DᎴ ᏩhᎳᏲᏓ ᏯᎦSᎩ ᏗhᎳᎾᎩ DᎴ ᏗᎦᎳᎾᏓᏗ ᏯᏯᏗ ᎤᏂᏩᏍᎩ ᎾᏥ ᏣᎵᏂ DᏰᏢ ᏂᏒ TᏗᎾᏁᏗ Ꮖ4ᏯᏗ ᏣᏗ

John Ross descendant offers diatribe on Freedmen leader
March 26 2007 at 12:02 AM David Cornsilk

The following is a letter to the editor sent to the Native American times by a thin blood member of the Cherokee Nation who bills herself as a storyteller and descendant of Cherokee chief John Ross. Her attack on Ms. Vann throughout her diatribe is neither unexpected, nor is it anything new. The letter could have been written during the 1960s in Alabama by any number of hood wearing denizens of the old South, all you have to do is replace Ms. Vann's name with that of Martin Luther King and the Cherokee Nation with Alabama and you have a repeat of history. My comments follow are interspersed with hers:

Letter was titled:
Letter to the Editor - issue of Cherokee rolls is Cherokee business

My response:
Since the Freedmen are Cherokees, many with blood of the tribe and all having rights of citizenship, it is their and all of our business.

3/22/2007

GR said:
My name is Gayle Ross and I am an enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation. I want to respond to the remarks made by Marilyn Vann, but first I
want to thank you for the opportunity to speak and to thank those who take the time to listen.

DC responds:
At least she got her name right. Or did she? We'll have to check on that. But Ms. Ross is NOT an "enrolled" member of the Cherokee Nation. There is no "roll" of Cherokees. There is a registry of descendants of citizens of the Cherokee Nation and Ms. Ross' name does appear on that list. Since there is NO CHEROKEE NATION ROLL, it is impossible for Ms. Ross or any descendant of a Dawes enrolled citizen to be "enrolled."

GR said:
You may know that Ms Vann has conducted extensive campaigns of both legal and public relations attacks on the Cherokee Nation.

DC responds:
Ms. Vann has never conducted a "campaign" legal, public or otherwise against the Cherokee Nation. Her efforts to secure her and all Cherokee citizens right to vote is against the tyrannical rule of Chad Smith, an avowed racist who seeks to destroy the rights of Cherokee citizens simply because they have ancestry traceable to the continent of Africa. Her campaign is to educate the Cherokee people on the truths of the Freedmen, that they have Cherokee blood, they have treaty rights, they are eligible to vote in the elections for the office of Principal Chief and the efforts to expel them are rooted in racism and fear of their vote.

GR said:
She represents herself as a victim of "racism" and to do that, she finds it necessary to distort our history and the facts. I can no longer listen to her shrill, strident invective smearing the Cherokee Nation in the name of "her rights". There is too much at stake to stand silently by as she continues her attacks.

DC responds:
Ms. Ross is just beginning to hear the shrill and strident voices of the Freedmen of the Cherokee Nation. She better get some really good ear plugs, because the cocophany of their cries for justice and those who support them may cause Ms. Ross to lose what little mind she has left.

GR said:
Ms Vann says Cherokee people were slaveowners and signed a Treaty with the Confederacy. What she hasn't told you is the majority of Cherokee wished to be neutral or remain loyal to the Union.

DC replies:
At the time of the signing of the Treaty with the Confederate States of America (CSA), the Cherokee Nation was virtually divided in half. One half, constituted predominately by full bloods and near full bloods supported continued relations with the U.S. The other side, comprised of mixed bloods, mostly slave-holders and slavey sympathizers, supported a
treaty with the CSA. There was no majority on either side. There is little evidence, except in the words of John Ross himself, that even gives an indication that neutrality was considered an option. The rank and file citizenship of the Cherokee Nation had very strong opinions and the divisions in the Nation were aligned mostly on racial lines.

GR said:
The treaty with the Confederacy was signed under duress while Southern troops occupied our country.

DC replies:
This statement is blatantly false. There were no "southern troops" in the Cherokee Nation. Albert Pike had been sent to the Cherokee Nation to negotiate a treaty. He was rebuffed several times by John Ross and the National Council. But as the deal kept getting sweeter, Ross acquiesced and signed, as did many tribes now resident in Oklahoma. Certainly, the federal troops had abandonded the CN to go where the fighting was, which means that's where the CSA troops were too; not in the Cherokee Nation.

GR said:
It was repudiated in less than a year and many more Cherokees fought and died to end slavery than practiced it.

DC replies:
The CSA treaty was repudiated by followers of John Ross, but was NEVER
repudiated by Ross until the end of the war; very convenient. I'd like to see the document that shows where more Cherokees died fighting to end slavery than practiced it. Every Cherokee member of a slave-holding
household practiced slavery, from the oldest granny to the youngest baby. All profited by the labor and free time afforded by the chattel slavery of human being in the Cherokee Nation. Much of the education attainment possible by Gail Ross' own ancestors, which has provided her with the legacy that instilled a love of books and education in her own family and self. She owes much to the slaves owned by her ancestor John Ross.

GR said:
President Lincoln assured Principal Chief John Ross that he understood
the Cherokee situation and that the Cherokees would not be treated harshly, but our hopes of fair treatment died with him.

DC replies:
The Cherokee Nation got fair treatment. The truth of the negotiation process which created the Treaty of 1866 shows an astute negotiating force headed by William Potter Ross, a Princeton educated lawyer and nephew of John Ross. Nine points were offered by the United States and four of those were accepted without reservation. Among those four points was the citizenship of the Freedmen. In fact, the Cherokees responded to the point on Freedmen citizenship by saying to the U.S. negotiators, "Tell us what you wish us to do with them and that we will do."

GR said:
The Treaty of 1866 was a "reconstruction" treaty demanding many concessions Cherokees felt were unfair. The United States responded by threatening to sign a Treaty with the very Confederate Cherokees who actually
had taken up arms against them. The Cherokees had been willing to offer land and certain rights to their freed slaves. The United States included the article calling for the "rights of native Cherokees."

DC replies:
"Reconstruction" use to be a code word for federal oversight in the old South. Anyone who reads the Treaty of 1866 and its attendant historic documents can easily see that very little "reconstructionism" went into its wording. Certainly, there were points that were not negotiable. First, slavery had to end. On that issue we can say that the U.S. forced its hand. But even there, the Cherokees came out better than other tribes because we had ended slavery in 1863, a good three years before the end of the Civil War. And Ms. Ross is a wrongheaded historic revisionist
when she says that the U.S. included the article giving rights to Freedmen "equal to native Cherokees." That provision was not just presented to the Cherokee delegation, it was actually written by William Potter Ross himself. The evidence is apparent in the words used in the phrase itself. The term "native Cherokee" was one coined by the Cherokees themselves. The negotiators of the time might have been familiar with it, but most likely not. The Cherokee delegation and most assuredly W.P. Ross would be familiar with the term, as it had been used in records created by the Cherokees themselves for decades.

GR said:
Ms. Vann did not tell you that freed slaves did not want tribal citizenship either. Congress, in 1865, sent Gen. John Sanborn to report of the status of the freed slaves of the Five Tribes and he reported that they wanted and expected the United States to procure a separate tract of Indian Territory for them.

DC replies:
Sanborn toured Indian Territory and did not visit a single freed slave. His information came from the whites and mixed Cherokees who had owned the former slaves. In fact, when Sanborn toured the Cherokee Nation, many of the former slaves were not even present in the Nation. They had been carried south to Texas and Choctaw Nation by their masters. The few remarks Sanborn records as "wishes of the freed slaves" no more represented the views of the whole freed slave population than did the recent vote to oust the Freedmen represent the views of the whole Cherokee people. And then again, why wouldn't the former slaves want their own space. They had been held in bondage and abused. If they could get their own space, live under their own laws and have their own plot of land, what's wrong with that? The mixed blood southern Cherokees were advocating the same thing at the same time. Ms. Ross doesn't seem to hold them to the same standard she would have us judge the Freedmen's ancestors.

GR said:
They wanted to own their own land rather than in common. They wanted autonomy under territorial law rather than tribal jurisdiction. The United States declined. Federal officials put Cherokees and Freedmen on the same path, knowing they wanted to go in different directions.

DC replies:
Ms. Ross just does not understand what she is saying here, or she intentionally distorts history to promote her own racist agenda. The views of the few freed slaves still in the Cherokee Nation in 1866 are not reflective of the desire of the whole Freedmen population to enjoy citizenship in the Cherokee Nation or on their own. And the United States did not decline anything regarding the Freedmen. The Freedmen were not parties to the negotations of the Treaty of 1866, their wishes were not considered, either by the U.S. agents or the Cherokees. The freed Cherokee slaves were a people without a country and the Cherokees, reflective of our inclusiveness, empathy and love for our former servants, caused the our Cherokee ancestors to adopt them as full citizens of the Nation. Ms. Ross, a steadfast supporter of Chad Smith and someone who has profited from the cash cow casino Smith operates, Ross is merely protecting what she sees as her meal ticket.

GR said:
It was a rocky road. The majority of Freedmen advocated allotment and the dissolution of the Cherokee government.

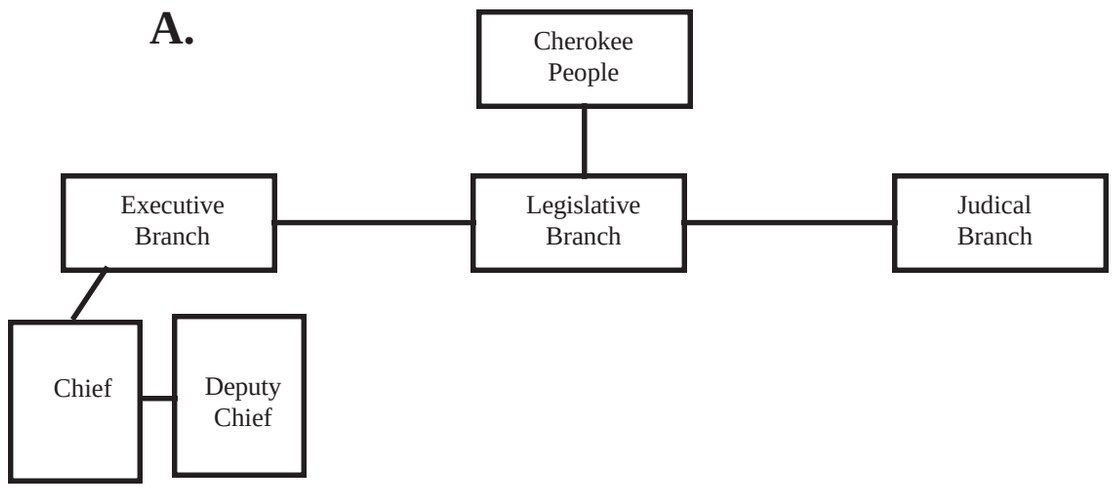
DC replies:
This statement is blatantly false. The Freedmen, much like the full bloods, were very opposed to statehood and dissolution of the tribal government, and they voted overwhelmingly against it in 1901. Had the full bloods voted, the mixed bloods who supported destroying the Cherokee Nation would have been defeated. The Freedmen opposed statehood for one main reason. The blacks in the south were suffering greatly under a
developing "Jim Crow" system of segregation and oppression. Despite some of the same sentiments in the Cherokee Nation from whites and thin blooded Cherokees, for the most part, Black Cherokees enjoyed a better standard of living, access to the land base of the tribe and could even get themselves elected to public office in the Nation where they constituted the smallest minority. Statehood would open the doors of the territory to the virulent racism practiced throughout the south. Why would the
Freedmen want that? The truth is they didn't and they did not support closing the tribal government. Gail Ross' own ancestors, who voted in the 1901 election supported closing the tribal government and allottment of land. If how your ancestor voted in 1901 could get you kicked out of the tribe, thered be a lot fewer Cherokees named Ross on the registry.

GR said:
Cherokees struggled to hold on to their land and their nation. Forty years later overwhelmed by forces from both within and without, our borders were obliterated and our government all but paralyzed. Freedmen interests were served. The United States' interests were served. The Cherokee Nation was devastated.

DC replies:
The voting population of the Cherokee Nation, comprised of mostly mixed bloods and their white spouses sold the Cherokee Nation out. Gail Ross' ancestors were among them. Slavery served the interests of her ancestors as they built wealth, absorbed education and climbed to the top of the Cherokee heap on the backs of the full bloods and the slaves. Yes, the Cherokee Nation was devastated, but the source of the devastation from within cannot be laid at the feet of the full bloods or the Freedmen. The destruction that came from within the Cherokee Nation came from the mixed bloods and their white spouses.

What will the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma look like, if Stacy Leeds & Cherokee's with a Cherokee heart win?

A.

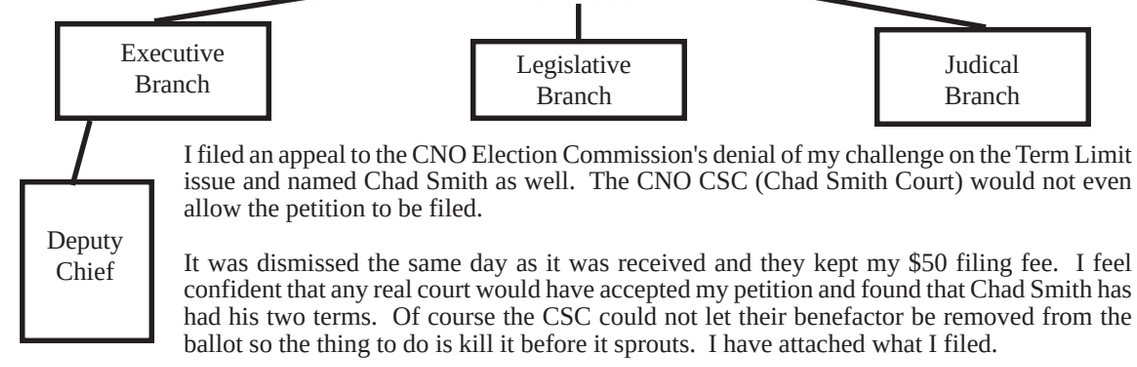


What will the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma look like, if Chad Smith & his slate win?

B.

Chad Smith

Chad Smith Court runs from the rule of law



I filed an appeal to the CNO Election Commission's denial of my challenge on the Term Limit issue and named Chad Smith as well. The CNO CSC (Chad Smith Court) would not even allow the petition to be filed.

It was dismissed the same day as it was received and they kept my $50 filing fee. I feel confident that any real court would have accepted my petition and found that Chad Smith has had his two terms. Of course the CSC could not let their benefactor be removed from the ballot so the thing to do is kill it before it sprouts. I have attached what I filed.

Robin Mayes <ucnchiefmayes@verizon.com>

Which one of these structures is constitutional? A or B

GR said:
Throughout the coming decades, African-Americans fought a long and noble fight for their civil rights as Americans. Indian people fought to remain Indian. Our battles were against the policies of "forced assimilation"; boarding schools, termination of our governments, allotment of our lands, the banning of our ceremonies and the destruction of our cultures and our languages. We fought not just for the rights of our people, but for our rights to exist as nations.

DC replies:
I seriously doubt that Gail Ross fought for anything but her next book
deal or speaking engagement. She is and has always been more concerned with promoting herself as an "Indian" storyteller than doing something for Indian people. Even her so-called storytelling is nothing more than repeating the stories collected by a white anthropologist living among the Eastern Cherokees. Her family did not preserve any traditional stories, as they had none to preserve. In her efforts to feel and act more "Indian" Ms. Ross cleaves herself to one of the most infamous administrations to govern the Cherokee Nation. She shouts about being an "Indian" and a "Cherokee" all the while decrying the identity and rights of the Freedmen. Her efforts speak loudly about her own self-doubt about her identity as she seeks to destroy the Cherokee heritage of others to make herself feel more Indian. Destroying the rights of others is NOT an Indian thing.

GR said:
The Cherokee Nation survives today because Cherokee people refused to let it die.

DC replies:
This is true; and the Freedmen have been there all along. They, like the Delawares, Shawnees, Keetoowahs and other Cherokees by blood have participated in the revitalization of our national identity as a tribe and government. Interestingly enough, Gail Ross' family were not there. Not
a single member of her immediate family appears on the list of voters from 1970, 1971, 1975. It was not until there was something for her to
gain that Ross herself became a member of the CNO. She's one of those jonny-come-lately whites with an Indian ancestor who puts on a "tear dress", braids her blackened hair and starts telling stories she only read in a book. If it had been left up to Gail Ross and her immediate family, the Cherokee Nation would have died as they lived it up among the white folks.

GR said:
The first Freedmen supported the dissolution of our government to relinquish Cherokee citizenship for American citizenship. This was right….for Freedmen. Our own people voted to accept allotment, but it proved to be wrong for Cherokees. Now Ms. Vann would wreak devastation on the Cherokees to demand citizenship.

DC replies:
Again, the Freedmen did not support allottment or dissolution of the Cherokee government. It was the mixed bloods and their white spouses who
did that. And the amendment to remove the Freedmen purports to exclude the intermarried whites, yet their descendants, the thin blooded Cherokees on the Dawes Rolls continue to enjoy their citizenship. Ms. Ross is right when she says that "her" own people voted to accept allottment. Even though she descends from John Ross, she obviously got little of his world view. It is not Ms. Vann who would wreak devastation on the Cherokees to demand citizenship. That is being wrought by Ross' beloved leader Chad Smith. He has wrought devastation on the Cherokee Nation in his effort to promote ethnic cleansing and protest his position by preventing the Freedmen from voting.

GR said:
In order to make this about race, Ms Vann has shrieked to the press about our citizens with low quantums of Cherokee blood, saying we accept "white" Cherokees but not "black" Cherokees. This is a lie. Our paperwork is color-blind. The citizens Ms. Vann sneers at may very well be part Cherokee, part white, part some other tribe, part Hispanic and part Black! We do not tell our children whom they may marry. Our enrollment is determined by a direct connection to a specific list of Cherokee citizens on the Dawes Rolls.

DC replies:
Ms. Ross obviously cannot read. Ms. Vann has stated accurately, time and time again, that there are white people on the by blood section of the Dawes Roll. They have no blood quantum next to their name, yet the recent amendment does not exclude them because they are on the by blood section. Ms. Vann is 1/8 Cherokee by blood. Yet, because of their negro ancestry and complexion, her ancestors were enrolled as Freedmen instead of Cherokee Indians. She has more Cherokee blood than some who now serve on the Council and certainly more than Ms. Ross. Ms. Vann has ancestors on the same citizenship roll that Ms. Ross extols. Yet, because that roll of citizens was segregated by color in 1902, Ms. Ross would punish those on it because racism in 1902 prevented them from declaring their Cherokee blood.

GR said:
Ms. Vann arrogantly says the cherokee Nation "misapplies" the Dawes. That was what the vote was about, Ms. Vann. How to apply the Dawes. There are literally hundreds of thousands of "Cherokees" some with blood who cannot meet enrollment criteria. Different tribes use different rolls. It is our right to establish what we require for citizenship.

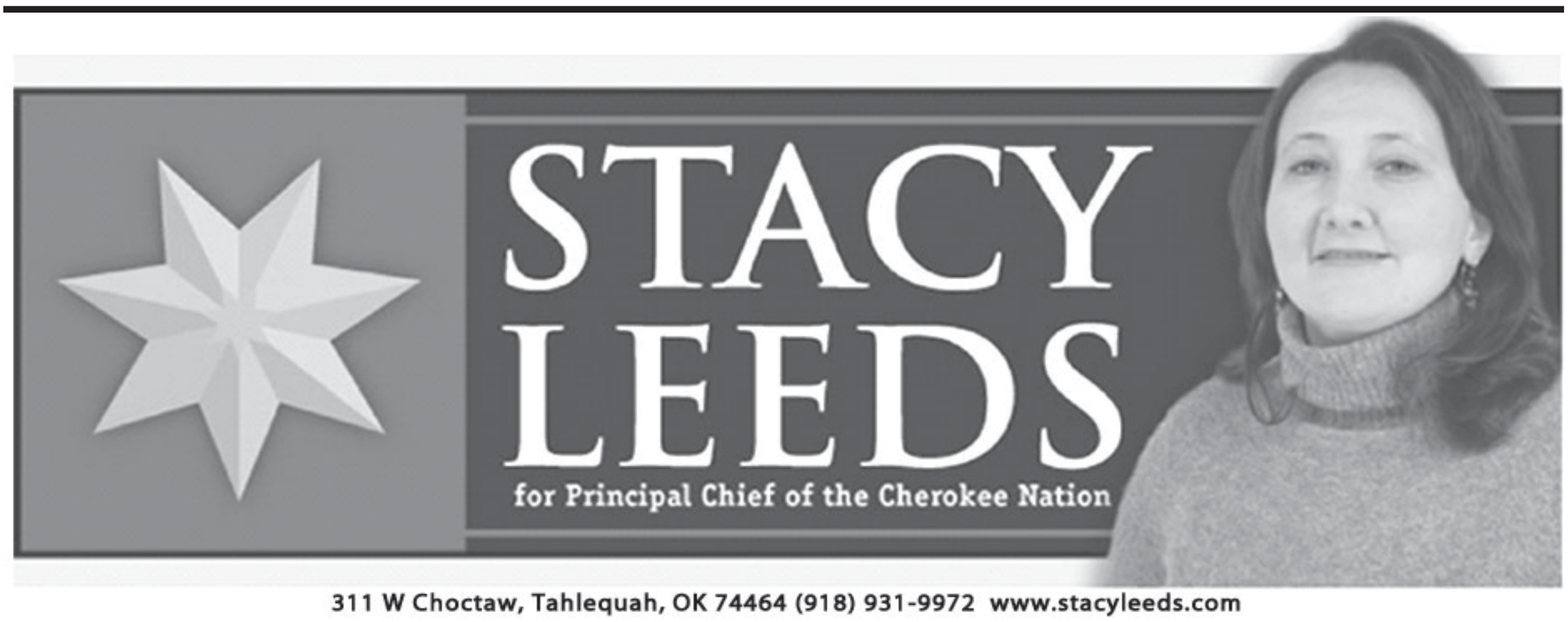
DC replies:
Ms. Ross needs to consult an attorney regarding the right of the Cherokee Nation citizens and their descendants to determine who is eligible to vote in the election for Principal Chief. Congress has closed the citizenship rolls of our Nation. We who are members of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma are merely descendants eligible under the 1970 Principal Chiefs Act to vote for Principal Chief. This right is extended by Congress to ALL citizens of the Cherokee Nation and their descendants in accordance with the Act itself. Congress gave the tribes of Oklahoma the right to recreate their governments and reestablish their citizenship Deputy Chief criteria based on their own desires. This law is called the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act (OIWA). The Cherokee Nation, identical to the Seminoles, has never taken advantage of this law. Our citizenship roll remains closed and our tribe is nothing more than a descendancy group known as CNO. The members of the CNO claim to have the right to remove from its ranks other members, but they cannot change or destroy the rights of citizens of the Cherokee Nation and their descendants to vote for the office of Principal Chief. That right is guaranteed by Congress to us all. That
also means there can never be a residency requirement or a blood quantum requirement to vote.

GR said:
Ms. Vann has asked Indian people to imagine how it would feel if this happened to your family. She doesn't know that most Indian people don't have to "imagine" this. I know many Indian people from many tribes who either have relatives or know a family with relatives who can no longer meet their tribe's legal requirements for enrollment. But mostly, when Indian relatives drop below a quantum requirement or a residence restriction, they go on being proud of their heritage, being active in their community and culture, honoring their ancestors. They know these things are not defined by enrollment, citizenship is.

DC replies:
Ms. Ross most certainly does know lots of fakes and wannabes. Her social and professional associations, just like Chad Smith, have always been with wannabes. She obviously feels more comfortable among whites
because she does not socialize among real Cherokees. She did not grow up in an Indian community and does not now live in an Indian community. The Freedmen, in the face of great odds and much unwarranted hatred by people like Gail Ross, do treasure their heritage. And one of the greatest treasures of their heritage is the right to vote in the Cherokee Nation. If they are not members of CNO, they, like Ross will still be proud of their ancestors, proud of their Cherokee blood, proud of the contributions they have made to the Cherokee people and the tribe. But Ms. Ross has one thing she is proud of the Freedmen do not have. Ms. Ross is a racist and

contunied on page 7

www.cherokeeobserver.org



311 W Choctaw, Tahlequah, OK 74464 (918) 931-9972 www.stacyleeds.com

New Leadership, New Vision

Stacy Leeds will bring a positive change to the Cherokee Nation. She is uniquely qualified to represent the Cherokee Nation at the local and national level without losing sight of what truly matters to the Cherokee people. She is an independent thinker with a deep respect for the rule of law and a commitment to improving the quality of life in our communities.

A few of Stacy's Priorities:

- Responsible and efficient management of tribal funds to increase services for elder health care, housing and education.
- Successfully diversify Cherokee businesses to provide private sector job stability for Cherokee people.
- Empowering and organizing our communities.
- Creating a government of the highest integrity that is accountable to the Cherokee people.

Stacy Leeds is a former Cherokee Supreme Court Justice, tenured Professor of Law and the Director of the Tribal Law and Government Center. Raised in Muskogee, she descends from the Leeds-Yates-Bean-Timberlake Cherokee family of Ft. Gibson. She and her husband, Michael Stewart, live north of Tahlequah.

For More Information, email stacy@stacyleeds.com or view her website:

www.stacyleeds.com

Cherokee Election 2007

Election Schedule Of Events

Feb./March 2007

Absentee Ballot Request Open **2/5/07**
Candidates Filing and Authorized Financial Agent Statement **3/5/07 - 3/8/07**
Voter Contest of Candidates Eligibility **3/9/07 - 3/15/07**
Candidates Withdrawal Period **3/9/07 - 3/22/07**
Commissioner's Investigation of Candidates **3/9/07 - 3/26/07**
Commission Meeting **3/08/07**
Drawing for Ballot Position and Watchers Location **TBA**
Eligibility Letter Deadline **3/26/07**
Voter Registration and District and Precinct Changes Closes **3/30/07**
Appeal of Election Commission Eligibility Decision with Supreme Court **3/27/07 - 4/2/07**

April 2007

Candidate Financial Disclosure Report Due **4/16/07**
Supreme Court Establishes Appeal Hearing Schedule **4/3/07 - 4/5/07**
One Complete Voter List for Each Candidate **4/13/07**
Commission Meeting **4/12/07**

May 2007

Absentee Ballot Request Closes **5/11/07**
Candidate Financial Disclosure Report Due **5/15/07**
Commission Meeting **5/10/07**
One Complete Voter List with Absentee Noted for Each Candidate **5/18/07**
Red Voter Identification Card Mailed **5/23/07**
Absentee Ballots Mailed **5/28/07 - 5/29/07**

June 2007

Candidate Financial Disclosure Report Due **6/15/07**
Request for Absentee FOR RUNOFF Closes **6/18/07**
In Person Absentee Voting at the Cherokee Nation Election Office **6/19/07 - 6/21/07**
GENERAL ELECTION 6/23/07
Request for Recount **6/25/07 - 6/27/07**
Request Held **6/28/07 - 6/29/07**

July 2007

Election Appeals Deadline **7/2/07**
Supreme Court Establishes Appeal Hearing Schedule **7/3/07 - 7/5/07**
Run-off Absentee Ballots Mailed **7/9/07 - 7/10/07**
Certification to BIA **TBA**
Candidate Financial Disclosure Report Due **7/16/07**
In Person Absentee Voting at the Cherokee Nation Election Office **7/24/07 - 7/26/07**
RUN-OFF ELECTION 7/28/07
Request for Recount **7/30/07 - 8/1/07**

August 2007

Recount Held **8/2/07 - 8/3/07**
Election Appeals Deadline **8/6/07**
Final Candidate Financial Disclosure Report Due **8/7/07**
Supreme Court Establishes Election Appeal Hearing Schedule **8/7/07 - 8/9/07**
Certification to BIA **TBA**
Cherokee Nation Elected Officials Swearing in Ceremony **8/14/07**

Please double check with your information and be sure to call or write to the Election Commission with any questions you may have.

Cherokee Nation Election Services
PO Box 1188
Tahlequah, OK 74465
(918) 458-5899 or 1-800-353-2895
http://www.cherokee.org/TribalGovernment/Election/home.aspx?section=main&year=2007

Profile of a Sociopath

A number of mind-manipulating cult leaders may exhibit many of the behavioral characteristics of a sociopath--an outstanding ability to charm and seduce followers. Since they appear apparently normal, they are not easily recognizable as deviant or disturbed. Although only a trained professional can make a diagnosis, it is important to be able to recognize the personality type in order to avoid further abuse. These traits also apply to a one-on-one cultic relationship.

Glibness/Superficial Charm

Language can be used without effort by them to confuse and convince their audience. Captivating storytellers that exude self-confidence, they can spin a web that intrigues others. Since they are persuasive, they have the capacity to destroy their critics verbally or emotionally.

Manipulative and Conning

They never recognize the rights of others and see their self-serving behaviors permissible. They appear to be charming, yet are covertly hostile and domineering, seeing their victim as merely an instrument to be used. They dominate and humiliate their victims.

Grandiose Sense of Self

Feels entitled to certain things as "their right." Craves adulation and attendance. Must be the center of attention with their own fantasies as the "spokesman for God," "enlightened," "leader of humankind," etc. Creates an us-versus-them mentality

Pathological Lying

Has no problem lying coolly and easily and it is almost impossible for them to be truthful on a consistent basis. Can create, and get caught up in, a complex belief about their own powers and abilities. Extremely convincing and able to pass lie detector tests.

Lack of Remorse, Shame or Guilt

A deep seated rage, which is split off and repressed, is at their core. Does not see others around them as people, but only as targets and opportunities. Instead of friends, they have victims and accomplices who end up as victims. The end always justifies the means and they let nothing stand in their way.

Shallow Emotions

When they show what seems to be warmth, joy, love and compassion it is more feigned than experienced and serves an ulterior motive. Outraged by insignificant matters, yet remaining unmoved and cold by what would upset a normal person. Since they are not genuine, neither are their promises.

Incapacity for Love

While they talks about "God's love" they are unable to give or receive it. Since they do not believe in the geniuses of their followers' love, they are very harsh in testing it from their devotees and expect them to feel guilt for their failings. Expects unconditional surrender.

Need for Stimulation

Living on the edge, yet testing the beliefs of their followers with bizarre rules, punishments and behaviors. Verbal outbursts and physical punishments are normal.

Callousness/Lack of Empathy

Unable to emphasize with the pain of their victims, having only contempt for others' feelings of distress and readily taking advantage of them. Their skills are used to exploit, abuse and exert power. Since the follower cannot believe their leader would callously hurt them, they rationalize the behavior as necessary for their (or the group's) own "good" and deny the abuse. When devotees become aware of the exploitation it feels like a "spiritual rape" to them.

Poor Behavioral Controls/Impulsive Nature

Rage and abuse, alternating with small expressions of love and approval produce an addictive cycle for abuser and abused, as well as creating hopelessness in the victim. Believe they are all-powerful, all-knowing, entitled to every wish, no sense of personal boundaries, no concern for their impact on others. The followers only see them as near perfect.

Early Behavior Problems/Juvenile Delinquency

Usually has a history of behavioral and academic difficulties, yet "gets by" by conning others. Problems in making and keeping friends; aberrant behaviors such as cruelty to people or animals, stealing, etc.

Irresponsibility/Unreliability

Not concerned about wrecking others' lives and dreams. Oblivious or indifferent to the devastation they cause. Does not accept blame themselves, but blame their followers or others outside their group. Blame reinforces passivity and obedience and produces guilt, shame, terror and conformity in the followers.

Promiscuous Sexual Behavior/Infidelity

Totalist leaders frequently practice promiscuity, child sexual abuse, rape and sexual acting out of all sorts. This is usually kept hidden from all but the inner circle. Stringent sexual control of their followers, such as forced breakups and divorces, removal of children from parents, rules for dating, etc.

Lack of Realistic Life Plan/Parasitic Lifestyle

Tends to move around a lot or makes all encompassing promises for the future. Many groups claim as their goal world-domination or other utopian promises. Great contrast between the leader's opulent lifestyle and the followers' impoverishment. Support by gifts and donations from the followers who are pressured to give through fear and guilt. Highly sensitive to their own pain and health.

Criminal or Entrepreneurial Versatility

Changes their image and that of the group as needed to avoid prosecu-

continued in next issue

"VOTE ON JUNE 23, 2007 - MAKE A CHANGE"

Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma

Chart of Branches as we see it today.

Cherokee People

1975 Constitution

Executive Branch

Chad Smith
Principal Chief

Joe Grayson
Deputy Chief

Chief Justice Matlock

Justice Darell R. Matlock, C.J.

Jackie Martin
District 2

Cara Cowan
District 7

Buel Anglen
District 8

Meredith Frailey
District 6

William Johnson
District 8

Don Garvin
District 4

Audra Connor
District 1

Phyllis Yargee
District 3

Legislative Branch

Melvina Shotpouch
District 5

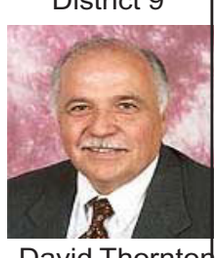
Bill Baker
District 1

Joe Crittenden
District 2

Johnny Keener
District 6

Linda O'Leary
District 5

Charles Hoskin
District 9



David Thornton
District 3

Tribal Council Representatives working for the Cherokee people today.

Register to Vote in 2007

Judical Branch

Justice Stacy Leeds

The Cherokee People needs to know, this is the way our nation is functoning as of today. **This structure is not constitutional.** The elected officals **acting under Chief Smith's control is illegal!** The only person that should be working under the Executive branch is Deputy Chief Grayson. Chief Smith should not have control over the majority of the Tribal Councilors or majority of our Judicual branch. But this is how it is working or not working for the Cherokee people. **Under this structure we have a dictatorship**. One person controlling our Nation, The creation of the 1975 Cherokee Constitution took the control of one man, to a three branch of government. But we have no checks & balances under our Constitution. When the Chief controls the Judicial branch and the majority of the Tribal Council. . . . .**We have a dictatorship and that is illegal under our Constitution**. When the Cherokee people can't rely on our three branches to work as their oath to follow our Constitution, then "OUR STATE OF THE NATION" is not what our Chief keeps telling us. The Chief keeps telling us everything is great and nothing it wrong. We Cherokees have trouble. We have more money and the people have less services. They are wasting our money. The money belong to the Cherokee People, but this adminstration spend our money as if it was theirs. **The Cherokee people need to wake up and get involved. Help stop these kinds of illegal actions. It is time again in our Cherokee History to rise up and protect the Cherokee Nation from corrupt elected officials or appointed officials & employees.**

Oklahoma County Democrats pass resolution

The following is the exact wording of the Resolution which was passed at the Oklahoma County Democratic Convention on March 31, 2007:

WHEREAS: Freedmen are direct descendants of former slaves of the Cherokees, or free Blacks who intermarried with Cherokees, who were made citizens of the Cherokee Nation in the nineteenth century, and were known as Cherokee Freedmen (or, "The Freedmen"; and,

WHEREAS: The Treaty of 1866 provides that the Cherokee Nation "hereby covenants and agrees that never hereafter shall either slavery or involuntary servitude exist in the Cherokee Nation" and that "all freedmen who have been liberated...as well as all free colored persons...and their descendants, shall have all the rights of native Cherokee; and,

WHEREAS: The slaves of the Cherokees walked the Trail of Tears along with the Cherokees and suffered many hardships and death upon that trail; and,

WHEREAS, the Cherokee Nation caused the slaves of their tribe to lose their African culture and to learn and become a part of the Cherokee culture; and

WHEREAS, the Cherokee freedmen and their descendants have made many noble contributions to the State of Oklahoma; and,

WHEREAS: In 1976, the Cherokee adopted a new constitution, in an election, which the Cherokee Freedmen were permitted to participate. The 1976 Constitution provided that the U.S. Constitution is the supreme law of the land and that the Cherokee Nation will never enact a law that is in conflict with any federal law; and,

WHEREAS, the descendants of the freedmen had Constitutional rights under the United States Constitution within the Cherokee Nation; and,

WHEREAS: The descendants of the Cherokee freedmen include many legislators and other famous people including Bill Pickett and James Earl Jones; and,

WHEREAS: The Chief of the Cherokee, Mr. Chad Smith, has made public statements, leading the public to believe that the descendants of the freedmen were not Indian by blood, even though he knows that Cherokee blood flows in the veins of the vast majority of the descendants of the Freedmen: and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT The many contributions of the descendants of the Freedmen of the Cherokee Nation are hereby recognized; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Freedmen and Cherokee Indians co-existed before Statehood and the Cherokee Tribes efforts to expel the Freedmen at this time should be dismissed by the Oklahoma County Democratic Party as discrimination; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Democratic Party not guarantee thirty-nine (39) set-aside slots for Native Americans in special treatment beyond other minorities, especially African-Americans, who have supported the Democratic Party consistently; and,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT any effort by any politician or any political party to honor the Cherokee Nation and/or its Chief Chad Smith shall be viewed in a negative light by this organization until such a time as the Cherokee freedmen are given the rights of equal citizens within the Cherokee Nation, which they earned by the blood their ancestors shed on the Trail of Tears.

Typed by Fannie Bates, M.P.H.
(405) 819-2617
3140 NW Expressway, #133, Oklahoma City, OK 73112

Do Not Vote for Chad Smith's tribal councilor's Slate. The slate is bought & paid for by Chad Smith. They will do whatever Smith tells them to do. They are suppose to represent your district cherokees. Vote for the person you feel will represent & listen to your needs.

Well Folks up in district 5, Stacy Leeds is coming your way Wed. 4-11-07 from 7 to 9 PM, for Coffee, a talk, and a question and answer session at the Civic Center, located a 125 5th St. NW, Miami Ok. If you need directions or have questions, call Jim Welch at 918-542-5528. If you miss it, there will be an interview by the local TV station, called Green Country TV. Wah doh, John..Green Country TV is the local station on cable. They do a good job of interviewing public officials. mjs

Notice

If you are running for office in the upcoming Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma general election this June 23, 2007.
Start advertising in the Cherokee Observer, Now! We have the best value for your advertising dollar's.
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editors@cherokeeobserver.org
or snail mail to PO Box 487, Blackwell, OK 74631-0487

Attention Class of 1967 Sequoyah High School

You are invited to participate in **our Class Reunion for May 4, 5, & 6, 2007 at the Annual Alumni Banquet.**
Please bring pictures of your families to share. Hope to see you. Call Betty Jack-Pulver at 1-918-227-1508 or LeRoy Adair 918-682-9916

Support a mailing of the Observer to 100 Cherokees that are not getting the truth! for $45.00 Donation.
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http://www.cherokeecourts.com

Racism call as Cherokees expel sons of slaves

CHEROKEES have voted to expel descendants of black slaves they once owned, a move that has exposed the unsavoury role played by some Native Americans during the Civil War and renewed accusations of racism against the tribe.

Members of the Cherokee Nation, the second largest Native American tribe, voted by 77 per cent to 23 in a special election to amend their constitution and limit citizenship to those listed as "Cherokee by blood".

The move stripped tribal membership from freedmen – those descended from slaves – and blacks who were married to Cherokees. They have enjoyed full citizenship rights for 141 years.

Opponents of the vote denounced it as a racist plot to deny tribal revenue – which includes $22 billion a year from casino takings for all US tribes – to those not deemed full-blood Cherokee, and to block them from claiming a slice of the tribal pie.

Supporters say that it was a long-overdue move by Cherokees to determine their own tribal make-up. Freedmen were granted full tribal membership under an 1866 treaty that the tribe was essentially forced to sign with the US Government after the Civil War ended.

The vote has reopened a lesser-known chapter in Native American history – the fact that some of the country's largest tribes sided with the Confederacy during the Civil War – and the intra-tribal racial tensions that have persisted since Emancipation.

Cherokees, Choctaws, Chicksaws, Creeks and Seminoles were known as the Five Civilised Tribes because they adopted many of the ways of the Confederate South, including the ownership of black slaves.

The election has also high-lighted the massive gambling revenues many tribes now enjoy because, as "sovereign nations", they are free to build casinos on tribal lands in a country where gambling is largely illegal.

The vote limits citizenship to those who can trace their heritage to a "Cherokee by blood" list, part of the Dawes Rolls census created by Congress in 1906. Under that census, anybody with a trace of African-American blood – even if they were half Cherokee – was placed on the freedmen roll.

Those with full Cherokee or mixed white and Cherokee ancestry – even if seventh-eighths white – were put on the "Cherokee by blood" roll.

Today about 25,000 of the 270,000 Cherokees are descendants of freedmen, but the tribe is growing rapidly with new citizens enrolling each month. Members are entitled to a share of the $350 million annual budget from federal and tribal revenue, housing and medical support.

Those who want to expel the freedmen have said that, without the vote, thousands more descendants would seek to cash in on the tribe's revenue and welfare network.

"Don't get taken advantage of by these people. They will suck you dry," wrote Darren Buzzard in a widely circulated e-mail last year.

"Don't let black freedmen back you into a corner. Protect Cherokee culture for our children."

Chad Smith, the tribe's principal chief, said that about 8,700 people had voted in the special election, more than the turnout for the Cherokee constitution vote four years ago.

"Their voice is clear as to who should be citizens of the Cherokee Nation. No one else has the right to make that determination."

But Taylor Keen, a tribal council member, said: "This is a sad chapter in Cherokee history. This is not my Cherokee Nation. My Cherokee Nation is one that honours all parts of her past."

Marilyn Vann, president of the Oklahoma City-based Descendants of Freedmen of Five Civilised Tribes, said: "I'm very disappointed that people bought into a lot of rhetoric and falsehoods by tribal leaders."

Although most tribal issues are dealt with by Cherokee courts, the freedmen have vowed to challenge the vote in federal courts. They have precedent on their side.

In 2000 the Seminole Nation expelled freedmen. But the federal Government, through the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and federal courts, refused to recognise the Seminoles as a sovereign nation. Faced with such a loss of status, they took the freedmen back.

The petition drive for the Cherokee ballot measure followed a ruling by the Cherokee Nation Supreme Court last March confirming that the 1866 treaty assured citizenship to freedmen descendants.

Since then, more than 2000 freedmen descendants have enrolled as citizens of the tribe. Members of the tribe received many election mailings attacking "nonIndians" as thieves who would create queues in health clinics and welfare centres.

But the vote means that, like the Seminole, the Cherokee risk losing their tribal sovereignty, Jon Velie, a lawyer for Seminole and Cherokee freedmen, told the New York Times. "There is a racial schism in Indian Country that is growing and getting worse."

Bobby & James Marshall at Oklahoma State capital

8(a) Sources

SUMMERFIELD, INC.

1903 K Southwest

Miami, OK 74354-8711

Contacts: Marvin James Summerfield

Tamara R. Summerfield

Office/Fax: 918-542-8796

Industry: NAICS 237110

Water and Sewer Line and Related Structures Construction

SBA certified this company as of 9/20/2005 .

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www.cherokeepolitics.com

Comments about the Cherokee Freedmen in the Washington Post

Hmmm. So the Cherokee want to expel the black members based on a racist census that determined Indianess by the one drop rule? If they vote to expel the descendents of freedmen, then Id say the Democratic controlled Congress with its several high ranking black committee members needs to revisit and perhaps amend the terms of the treaty with the Cherokee and impose some sort of taxes or otherwise subject it to the more rational rule of law. The vast majority of black Americans have some Native American ancestry and most dont give a toss about it and dont consider themselves anything but African American or just plain old American.
But for those who were raised as part of the tribe and can document it, they should not be excluded merely because they also recognize their black heritage. Until now, I confess that I didnt follow Native American issues much and didnt much care what they did with their tax exempt earnings. But now I see them attacking the interests of black people. So I do care now. If they expel the black tribal members, Ill consider the Cherokee Nation an adversary of black people in this country and a bunch of greedy racists. Millions of non-Indian will see the Five Civilized Tribes in a new, negative light as well. At a minimum, that will mean the loss of what had significant base of allies in Native struggles. At worst, it means cultivating political enemies. I begin to wonder why any American, Native or other, should enjoy tax free earnings while receiving services from a government they dont pay for.

Its a basic, inherent right to determine our own citizenry. We paid very dearly for those rights,* Whats this? The return of the one drop rule? Is this guy--a nazi or something? And then there is this ** PROTECT CHEROKEE CULTURE FOR OUR CHILDREN. FOR OUR DAUGHTER[S] . . . FIGHT
AGAINST THE INFILTRATION. Sounds similiar to the mantra of white nationalist. **We must secure the existence of our people and a future for White children** Its a wonder the justice department isnt on this like stink on s.... Watch your back Chief! Your compound might be next. But I do find a lot to agree with, chief Smith

---

Sounds similiar to the mantra of white nationalist. Why similar to WHITE nationalism? This is the sentiment of any nationalist, regardless of race.

Wow...So essentially they want to get rid of the Black members of their nation for the money?? I find it so ironic that they want to break a treaty much in the same way that so many treaties were broken with so many Native American nations in the past? Over money. The language used to justify it is disgusting, especially given how many Black Americans have Native ancestry, including me. Just appalling.

What a great shame this would be on the Cherokee

This is a disgusting and shameful spectacle. Thanks to the racism of census takers, freedmen who would otherwise be able to prove their ancestry so as to be eligible for tribal membership, will be unable to do so. And for the service of their ancestors, and their commitment to Cherokee ways, they will be expelled from the tribe, which is apparently still suffering from disgusting racism and xenophobia that they themselves ought to be all too familiar with. Im ashamed that my fellow citizens would vote for something like this, and Ill be doubly ashamed if this passes.
By alex2374

This article restores my faith in the common humanity of all people. The redman is no more noble than the greedy white guy or the racist black guy. We really are all alike under the skin.

---

ajsmith: I get no money out of my membership, and if this vote goes through I will seriously consider tearing up my card and mailing it back to them with a letter explaining why. The problem with your response is that you trot out a canard that many people who are opposed to money for tribes bring up again and again. There is no perk with being Cherokee the money they and many other Indian nations receieve is as a result of treaties they signed over the course of hundreds of years, and they receieve it in their status as domestic dependent nations. The money the federal government sends to tribes is not welfare though of course many members of tribes who dont live on traditional lands receive federal benefits independent of their status as Native Americans, just like any other American could. The truth is many of these freedmen who would like to maintain their citizenship could easily be just like me living in another state, and getting no money not even scholarships my friend from the tribe. And yet they will be expelled to. Do you think theyll be offended? Probably. So is it about the money for them? I hardly think so. Its about the insult to their dignity and history, and the fact that they will forever be denied an opportunity to share in the citizenship of the tribe as a result. And trust me, that matters. Otherwise, why would someone such as myself who doesnt live on tribal lands and gets no money out of the bargain, care if I have some card saying Im a citizen of the Cherokee nation or not?

This is typical Indian hypocrisy. Try to maintain your claim as an oppressed minority, meanwhile you receive hundreds of millions in government benefits. You get to sell your cigarettes to non-Indians with virtually no taxes and you get to run your corrupt casinos and not pay a damn thing to the government. And then you try shaft the descendants of the slaves that your ancestors owned. Corrupt greedy racists is right.

Dumb, Dumber, and Dumbest: Dumb Indians, Dumb Negroes, and Dumb Mexicans. The same government equally oppressed all groups just differently moreover these ethnic groups are pitted against one another with neither foresight nor hindsight as to who benefits from their disjointed oppression. Since 1492, the Europeans have conveniently kept strife between indigenous Indian nations, supplying them with guns and ammunition so they would kill each other. Mexican and Black gangs are not immune the urban streets are littered with the bodies of alpha males via guns and ammunition that are freely supplied and regulated from the Governmentâ•™s Bureau Of Alcohol, Firearms And Tobacco. Back to the Indian versus Freedmen discussion, who benefits by the dismantling of treaties? Think it over once, then twice. This is legal PRECEDENT for the ultimate dismantling of all US Treaties with the Indian Nations. Just like the shortsighted Indian leaders who sold the Island of Manhattan for some trinkets, their modern-day counterparts will sell treaties for a few casino chips. Let the dumb Indians short shift the dumber Negroes, and watch the treaties fall like dominoes.

How can this issue be defined other than racism? If tribes will accept white persons with open arms and tribes such as the Chickasaws are predominatly mixed bloods with whites which I suspect other tribes are no different, where is the argument? If tribes are entitled to determine their own citizenry based on looks than all fair-haired, blue-eyed Indians should be excluded. If the argument is based on services funded based on head count I would bet Freedmen probably were included in a census to get federal funds. Darren Buzzard said: PROTECT CHEROKEE CULTURE FOR OUR CHILDREN. FOR OUR DAUGHTERS...FIGHT AGAINST THE INFILTRATION.
Interesting comment. Why are Daughters being protected and not Sons from What? Is there a fear of being infiltrated by what? Senator Coburn R-OK asked a legitimate question, How little Indian blood can a person have and be Indian? Tribal governments are going to be faced with some difficult questions in the near future. The Cherokee case is only speeding necessary decisions along which will only benefit the tribes if they tribes will make fair decisions based on moral grounds, not politics. David Brown Tisomingo, Oklahoma

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Good grief. I thought American Indians were above this type of racism. They bring them into the fold, then reject them. Bad news.

This article takes Indians with any black blood right back to the 1800s, when the US Census enumerators were told in their instructions that: if an Indian mixed with whites they were still consider an Indian, however if they mixed with a black they were considered colored, Negro or black. I must question, how many of the Cherokee have white blood, there should be a vote to remove them.

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Letter to the Editor - issue of Cherokee rolls is Cherokee business

GR said:
Especially against the members of our traditional communities who spoke for the "by blood roll" with votes of 9 to 1 or 10 to 1. Ms. Vann doesn't seem to understand that traditional Cherokees can't hear you when you scream. I guess it's an Indian thing.

DC replies:
The United Keetoowah Band, representative of the majority of the higher degree of Cherokee Indians, and a group that Ms. Ross is neither a member of, nor would qualify for, have supported the rights of the Freedmen. The religious groups of the traditionalists, including the Keetoowah Society and the Cherokee Baptist Association, have remained silent. If Ms. Ross is priviledged to know the blood degrees of those who voted in the recent election, it begs the question of HOW? We know she is a Chad Smith sycophant and political insider. Is she telling us that the Smith administration knows how we voted, even down to the break down of our blood quantum? Or, as is typical of racists, she is simply blowing smoke up our arses and neither she, nor Smith know the blood quantums of those who voted for or against the amendment. If its the former, and they know these things, I smell fraud. If its the latter, and they don't know, then she's a liar. Either way, both are probably right.

GR said:
Ms. Vann contends that the Cherokee Nation is endangering the sovereignty of all tribes by refusing to "honor the treaties". She apparently does not know or care how many articles of how many treaties the United States has failed to honor.

DC replies:
The lack of fidelity by the United States to its treaty obligations is not relavent. I don't do something wrong just because my neighbor does. We Cherokees, through our ancestors, made a promise. They considered the Treaty to be sacred, just read the teachings of RedBird Smith and you'll know this. We have now violated a treaty and not only that, but we have violated the promise of our ancestors.

GR said:
She does not see or care that the threat to Indian sovereignty is in her continued demands that the federal government once again infringe on our rights as a nation.

DC replies:
It is Chad Smith and his pokespeople, like Gail Ross, who seem not care that their racist actions are what invite federal intervention. The Treaty of 1866 is a contract. We have broken our part of the contract. We have gotten from the United States what they promised, federal recognition, among other things. It is the right and the obligation of the United States to enforce the Treaty of 1866. If they do nothing, the U.S. will be violating the treaty. The Cherokee people promised the Freedmen and their descendants equal rights to native Cherokees. If the U.S. does not enforce this promise, it is denying to all Cherokees the rights afforded by the Treaty. I am a Cherokee by blood and I want the Freedmen to be members. I want to honor the promise made by my ancestors to the Freedmen. If the United States does not enforce the Treaty, it will be violating my rights along with the rights of all Cherokee citizens to enjoy the benefits of the Treaty of 1866.

GR said:
Cherokee people did not "ignore" the Treaty of 1866. They simply expressed their belief that the obligations inherent in the Treaty were fulfilled long ago.

DC replies:
Ms. Ross has been living among the white people waaay too long. She is using their words against her own people. I have heard so many times, for as long as I have been involved in tribal affairs, nearly 30 years now, that the treaties are old and outdated. They have been fulfilled many times over by white America and are no longer valid. If the obligations of the Cherokees stemming from our side of the contract were fulfilled long ago, then so too were the obligations of the other side, the United States. Our obligation was to take as citizens our former slaves and their descendants. The United States obligation was to give us federal recognition. If we no longer honor the treaty, then why should they?

GR said:
To the mixed Black/Cherokees on the Freedmen Roll who feel hurt that we limit our citizenship to a specific blood roll, I would ask them to understand that their heritage is theirs. Nothing can take that away. Heritage, culture, pride in your ancestors are all good things. But heritage and citizenship are not the same.

DC replies:
On the contrary Ms. Ross, a right to citizenship in the Cherokee Nation is their heritage. Heritage is that which we inheritage from our past and our ancestors. Citizenship in the Cherokee Nation is not the only part of their heritage, but it constitutes an important part of it. Certainly, anyone, like Ms. Ross, can pick up a book, throw on a tear dress and some beaded earrings and call one's self a traditional. Making a mockery of Cherokee culture is Ms. Ross' heritage. But her right to vote in the Cherokee Nation elections is also her heritage. And I guarantee you, if we could take it away from her, we'd hear her shrieking, going to court and talking to the

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"VOTE ON JUNE 23, 2007 - MAKE A CHANGE"